

A
TESTIMONY
OF
GODS LOVE
UNTO
Mankind in General,
But more especially to them that be-
lieve in his
LIGHT.

ALSO
Signifying (in short) that the Suffering People of
God were subject to the Higher POWER, and
Suffered under the Powers of Darknes.

By Peter Hardcastle.

*They that knew God, and Glorified him not as God, neither did like to re-
tain him in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate Mind,
and they became vain in their Imaginations, and their foolish hearts were
darkned, Rom 1. 21.*

*But the Path of the Righteous is as a shining Light, that shineth more and
more unto the perfect Day, Prov. 4. 21.*

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A Testimony of Gods Love unto Mankind in General ; but more especially to them that Believe in his Light.

THE Lord God, who created all things by the Word of his Power, manifested his Love unto Mankind in general, by creating man in his own Image, and giving him power and dominion over the Works of his Hands ; that both Male and Female might stand in the Heavenly Authority, in the Life, and Power, and Heavenly Image, over the Earth and earthly things, ordering them in the Wisdom of the Creator ; and over the Serpent and all his subtilty, and power ; and in this State they had right to the Tree of Life, and the Fruit of it, which was to keep them alive unto God, that they might Worship and Serve him, and bow to his Power ; and so live to the Praise and Glory of the Lord forever : In this Estate man was in union with his Maker, and knew no Sorrow, nor Death, nor any Evil : In this blessed Estate they lived, until the Serpent, through his subtilty deceived the Woman, and she took of the Tree of Knowledge of *Good and Evil*, and gave also unto her Husband, and they both did eat of the forbidden Fruit ; and so sin entred, and Death by sin ; thus they came to know Sorrow, and Death, and Pain, and lost the Paradise of God, and right to the Tree of Life, and so fell from the Life and Power of God, under the Serpents power, and under Death's dominion. In this Estate are all the Sons and Daughters of *Adam* in the fall, who are not redeemed by the Life and Power of the Lord Jesus Christ : But the Lord in the Riches of his Love and of his free Grace, hath manifested his Love abundantly unto Mankind, in that he hath given his only begotten Son, who was glorified with himself before the World began, by whom the World, and all things therein was made, and by whom all things are upheld ; him hath the Father given, and prepared him a Body, that he might do the Will of the Father, & tasted Death for every man, and enlighteneth every man

...brought into the World (with the Light of Life) that all Mankind might have a Day of Visitation of the Love of God, who would have all men to see from whence they are fallen, and come to the knowledge of the Truth, and be saved, as it's written, *Titus 2. 2. The Grace of God, that bringeth Salvation, hath appeared to all men*: Thus the Lord hath manifested his Love again unto Mankind in general, in giving a Day of Visitation, and tendering his free Grace in the Love of the Lord Jesus Christ; and so the Lord is clear from the Blood of all men, that will none of his Counsel, who reject his *Grace* and *good Spirit*, when it is freely tendered to them, by which they might be saved from Sin and Death, and restored unto Everlasting Life: And unto this undeniable *Truth* of God shall the Unrighteous Generation confess in the mighty Day of the Lord, and that the Way of the Lord is Equal.

But more especially the Lord hath manifested his undeclarable Love (in the Lord Jesus Christ) in the Hearts of those who receive the Light and Spirit of Grace, when it is tendered to them, and appears in them; these come to know the Work of the Lord by the operating of his *Power* and *Spirit of Grace*, by which the heart comes to be opened, and the Eye of the Understanding enlightened (more and more) that the Creature comes to discern those things that pertain unto Life and Salvation; and so waiting upon the Lord in his Gift, which is *pure*, comes to feel his pure Power, which gives dominion over the spirit and power of darkness; & so as the Faith stands in the Power of God, the work of Darkness (which is Sin and Iniquity) comes to be wrought out of the Creature; and the Blood or Life of the Lord Jesus comes to be ministered unto the Soul, by which the Soul comes to be Washed, Comforted, and invivened (more and more) to wait upon the Lord; and thus the Soul comes to be subject to the Lord, and to his Christ, the Power of God, which is the Higher Power, which every Soul ought to be subject unto; and so the Soul being purified and made subject to the Power of God, comes to be joyned unto the Lord in the Spirit, and so waits upon the Lord, and serves him, and worships him in the Spirit and in the Truth; and hereby the Love of God comes to be shed abroad in the heart abundantly (beyond expression) and the Soul comes to partake of divine Consolation, eats of the Bread, and drinks of the Water of Life, and so comes to know a Passage from Death to Life, as the primitive

five *Christians* did: And so the tender Care and Love of God in the Lord Jesus is manifested on this wise unto them that believe, and are willing and obedient unto the Heavenly Voice (or Motion of the holy Spirit) and whatever the Children of Light come to partake, of divine Consolation, whilst they remain in the Body, it is but as the Earnest of the Inheritance, which the Lord hath prepared for them in his Heavenly Kingdom, when time shall be no more; and so the Apostle and Minister of Christ said on this wise, *When our earthly Houses of this Tabernacle is dissolved, we have a Building made without hands, eternal in the Heavens*: And Moses, the Servant of the Lord, *Chosed rather to suffer Affliction with the People of God, then to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season*; because he had respect to the Recompence of the Reward: And so, in like manner, the People of God in all Ages, who were delivered from the power of *Darkness*, and made subject to the Power of God, they chos'd rather to suffer with the Suffering Seed, then to do those things which might displease the Lord, and bring his heavy Judgments upon themselves, and cause the Name of the Lord to be blasphemed; and so being made perfect in their Generation according to the Will of God, they became as *Tried Stones in the House of God*, and were of the general Assembly, and Church of the First-born, *Jesus Christ* being the Head and chief Corner-stone; and these Souls were subject to the Higher Power, and were nourished at the Breasts of Consolation; and what ever they suffered outwardly, it was under the power of *Darkness*; and so Jesus said unto his Persecutors, when he was to Suffer, *This is your hour, and the power of Darkness*: And the true *Christians* in the primitive time, before the Apostacy, who were delivered from the Power of *Darkness*, they testified, *That they wrestled not against Flesh and Blood, but against Principallities, and Powers, and spiritual Wickedness in high Places*; and yet these *Christians* were subject to the higher Power, and did not resist the Ordinance of God. Even so, now hath the Lord appeared in Power and in Glory (after the Night of *Darkness*, and Apostacy from the Life and Power of God) to gather in one (even in Christ) the hearts and spirits of his People, that he may Baptize them by his Spirit into one Body, that as the Lord is one, and his Name one, even so his People may be one in him, and wait upon him, and serve him, and worship him, and bow to his Name, and be subject to his Power (Gods Ordinance) and to every Ordinance of man, which is made for the
Lords

Lords take; and this is the Lords Work, which he hath begun, and carries it on by his own Power; and for this end the Lord sent forth his Servants, to turn Peoples minds to the Light of Christ, and from the power of Darknes unto God, and their Testimony was true; and as many as receive the Light, and believe in it, they receive power over their own *wills*, and over the spirit and power of *Darknes*, and so wrestles against the Spirit and Power of Darknes, to be delivered from its Temptations. And as it was the Practise of the Churches of Christ, in the primitive Times, to meet together and wait upon the Lord, that they might receive of his Fulness, and their Souls be satisfied with the feeling of his Love, and Life, and Power manifested in and amongst them, by which they were refreshed and enabled to stand against the Wiles and Temptations of the Devil and power of Darknes; even so, the same Practise is found amongst the Gatherings of the Lords People (who are in scorn called *Quakers*) by which it appears, that they have received of the same Spirit and Power which they had, who lived in the Apostles dayes; and though these Christians have no other end in meeting together, but that the Name of the Lord and his Truth may be exalted, and their Souls refreshed, in feeling the Life and Power of the Lord in them, and amongst them, and receive Wisdom from the Lord, that they may be ordered by it in a holy Conversation, that their Light may shine before men, that the Lord may be Glorified and Praised for all his Blessings. Many have suffered very deeply, since they were gathered in the Name of the Lord, and their Sufferings do encrease since the late Act came forth, which was made (as we suppose) *against Seditious Sectaries, and other Disloyal Persons, who under Pretence of Tender Consciences, have or may at their Meetings contrive Insurrections, as late Experience hath shewn*: If this be so, that the Act be against such, let the Wise in Heart consider, whether the Innocent People of God, who are free from all these things (and abide in the Spirit of Truth, and bring forth the Fruits of the Spirit, which is Love, Meekness, Peace, Long-Suffering, Temperance, and the like, which the Apostle saith, *Against such there is no Law*) do not suffer contrary to the Law; and whether the Rod of the Wicked ought to be laid upon the Back of the Righteous; and whether it be not high time for all Ministers of Law and Justice, to wait for the Power of God to open their Understandings, that they may discern between the Righteous and the wicked,

ed, and between them that meet under Colour and Pretence, and that meet in Reality and in the Truth; and to lay the Rod upon the Wicked, and Transgressors of every just Law, and let the Righteous go free, so that Love, and Peace, and Righteousness, and the Knowledge of God and his Truth might spread over the Earth, that the Lord may pour forth his Blessings upon the works of his own hands, and that Sin, and Iniquity, and every Abomination (in the Eye of the Lord may be done away, which brings the Curse and Wrath of God upon Families, and Cities, and Kingdoms; and that all People high and low might Fear the Lord, and honour him above all, and be subject to his Power: So shall the Mountain of the Lords House be established above all Mountains, and Love and Peace grow in the Earth; that the Nations may beat their Swords into Plow-shares, and their Spears into Pruning-hooks, according to the Prophecie of *Isaiah*: And the holy City *New Jerusalem*, the Mother of many Sons and Daughters, may become the Praise of the whole Earth, and the Kings of the Earth that are saved, may bring their Glory and Honour into it, and rule in the Lambs Power, over the Beast and power of Darkness; and the Kingdoms of the World may become the Kingdoms of our Lord *Jesus Christ*, that God may be all in all, and over all blessed for ever.

This will the Lord bring to pass (we do believe) in his appointed time, and in his day, by his Word and Power: And as the Lord hath been pleased to manifest his Love in us, and open the Eye of our Understandings, and reveal his Mind and Will; even so in the same Love we signifie (according to the Will of God) in love to all People, that they may cease to do evil, and learn to do well, and turn to the Lord, and escape his heavy Judgment, which will certainly come upon the Ungodly, except they repent; *For the Ungodly shall not stand before him in the Judgment, nor Sinners in the Congregation of the Righteous*: Therefore Kiss the Son, lest he be Angry, and ye perish from the Way, when his Wrath is kindled but a little: Blessed are all they that put their Trust in him, and wait upon him, and receive his Counsel, that they may partake of his divine Nature, and grow in the same into the Estate of Election, and so follow the Lamb in the meek Spirit of Grace; and resist the Enemy, the old Accuser of the Brethren and Servants of the Lord, in all his Wiles and Temp-

Temptations; and so escape the Wrath of God and the Estate of Reprobation, which they that follow the Enemies Counsel cannot escape; for the Lamb and his Followers must have the Victory: And the Redeemed of the Lord praise the Lord in the beauty of Holiness, in the Land of the Living, where the unrighteous Generation (who reject the Counsel of the Lord, and Tenders of his free Love in Christ, and cast his Law behind them) cannot come.

Peter Hardcastle.

THE END.
